



## **Bike Edina Task Force: News & Meeting Outcomes**

***June 14, 2012***

**Purpose:** The Bike Edina Task Force (BETF) meets to serve citizens and partner with City staff and elected officials to promote bicycle improvements in Edina for education, encouragement, infrastructure, enforcement, and ongoing assessment. We support implementation of the approved [City of Edina Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan](#) that serves all levels of bicyclists, connects key destinations including safe routes to schools, and integrates with the Twin Cities' regional bike network. Our **vision** is a progressive bicycle-friendly community where citizens can integrate cycling into their daily lives.

**Time & Location:** BETF monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room at Edina City Hall. For questions contact Peter Kelley, Chair. Guests are welcome.

**Distribution:** BETF, guests, City Manager, City Engineer, Edina Police BETF Liaison Sgt. Timothy Olson, SHIP contact Robyn Wiesman, and Mayor & City Council. Also Dianne Plunkett Latham to post for the Edina Energy and Environment Commission and Ned Nelson of the Hennepin County Bicycle Advisory Committee

- **Present:** Ellen Jones, Kirk Johnson, Marty Mathis, Alex Johnson , Jennifer Janovy, Carl Follstad, Rob Erickson,
- **Absent:** Peter Kelley, Sally Dunn , Larry Olson, Brad Schaeppi, Don Eyberg, Alice Hulbert, Carl Gulbranson, Tom Randall
- **Guests:** Kristopher Wilson
- **Recorded by:** Carl Follstad

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1. **Status of BETF** – Group discussed the status of BETF with regard to City of Edina. (i.e. should we be completely independent, part of the Edina Transportation Commission(ETC), or something else.) Jennifer stated that if we are part of ETC, we would be a Working Group but must share a member (Co-Chair) Would have to fall under the City's Bylaws. Jennifer provided an update on direction of ETC in regards to multimodal transportation. Some concern expressed over potential of approval needed of

BETF events by an oversight group. Jennifer will send out bylaws for BETF's review and will discuss it next month.

2. **Blog** – Peter forwarded a request for blog articles for July(for the Bike Edina website. Alex suggested a roundabout video. Jennifer suggested the biking on sidewalks issue. Peter will follow up with the two of them.

### 3. **Project Updates**

- a. **Nine Mile Creek Trail** – Peter forwarded information from Kelly Grissom at Three Rivers park district about the failure to get federal grant money for the trail at this point. Jennifer announced Transportation Advisory Board part of the Met Council is meeting next Wed(June 20) to potentially vote on \$5.5M investment to build out 9MCRT east of Tracy Ave.
  - b. **Bike racks** -- The city is waiting for Transit for Livable communities(TLC) to have its paperwork in order. Wayne still expects to install them this summer.
  - c. **Striping of 70th, Cahill, Antrim, and Valleyview** –City has developed preliminary plans. There are still a few tweaks to be made, but the schedule is to do the striping after the roads are seal coated in July or August.
  - d. **Bike Blvd**—Work will start in middle of August.
  - e. **Gallagher** – City needs to get a state aid variance. Wayne Houle will meet with state officials on June 28. He believes the city will get the variance.
  - f. **Tracy Ave redevelopment** – Project to start on June 25, end in mid October.
4. **France Avenue Pedestrian and Bike Crossing Improvement Project** -- Jennifer and Marty attended initial public stakeholder meeting. The project is still in the planning phase. Project to include improved crossings at intersections, new sidewalks and bike lanes. France Ave is a county road and not a designated bike route. Second stakeholder meeting is scheduled for June 26 at 7:00 at the Edina Public Works building.
  5. **Sidewalk Riding** – The current city ordinance prohibits bike riding on any sidewalks in the city. This is counter to the generally accepted thought that sidewalk riding was allowed except within business districts. BETF discussion included importance of education for safe bicycling on streets, which is statistically much safer than biking on sidewalks. Sidewalk riding is allowed in many other communities, but usually bicyclists must assume the rights and duties of pedestrians, plus yield to pedestrians (see MN statute [169.222](#)). The group discussed accommodations for reasonable rules on biking on sidewalks. Committee members should review Jennifer's eMail memo (PDF) and return comments to her by next Thursday (6/21) with the aim of developing a change to city ordinance.
  6. **Bike racks at new Southdale apt building** – Marty asked what should BETF's involvement be? Should we create a standard or is there one already on the Comprehensive Plan? Jennifer believes there is a bike parking ordinance and will do some research and report back to group.

7. **Franchise Fee** – The city may soon vote on implementing a utility Franchise fee, with funds being directed to help subsidize biking infrastructure and staffing in Edina. Look for formal discussion/voting in a future City Council meeting.
8. **Bike Award** -- We will look at re-applying in 2013 for the League of American Bicyclists, Bicycle Friendly Community, Bronze award.